

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1933

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: LENINGRAD OBLAST PARTY ORGANIZATION HOLDS REPORT-ELECTION
CONFERENCE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. LENINGRAD OBLAST PARTY OGRANIZATION CONVENED ITS 23D CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 30 TO HEAR REPORT SPEECH BY OBLAST FIRST SECRETARY G.V. ROMANOV AND ELECT/REELECT PRINCIPAL OBLAST PARTY OFFICIALS AND MEMBERSHIPS OF VARIOUS BODIES. RESULTS OF ELECTION WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. ROMANOV PLAYED UP LENINGRAD SUCCESSES DURING PAST FIVE YEARS, NOTED A NUMBER OF INSTANCES WHERE LENINGRAD ACCOMPLISHMENTS RECEIVED CENTRAL PARTY APPROVAL, AND WORKED IN SEVERAL

"BIG PICTURE" FORMULATIONS ON THE OVERALL SUCCESSES OF SOVIET DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LAST MAIN LENINGRAD EVENT IN THE SCHEDULE OF PARTY ACTIVITIES LEADING TO THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS GOT UNDERWAY ON JANUARY 30 WITH THE CONVENING OF THE 23D CONFERENCE OF THE LENINGRAD OBLAST PARTY ORGANIZATION. BRIGORIY VASIL'YEVICH ROMANOV, OBLAST PARTY FIRST SECRETARY (AND CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO) GAVE THE PRINCIPAL REPORT SPEECH. PRESS REPORTS NOTED THAT V.A. SAMOYLOV, INSTRUCTOR OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S DEPARTMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL-PARTY WORK, WAS PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE. ROMANOV MENTIONED BREZHNEV'S NAME

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TEN TIMES DURING HIS SPEECH AND, AS NOTED BELOW, STRESSED THE

CENTRAL PARTY LEADERSHIP'S APPROVAL OF A NUMBER OF LENINGRAD ACCOMPLISHMENTS. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF ROMANOV'S MAIN POINTS.

3. ROMANOV BEGAN IN A GENERAL, SOMEWHAT PHILOSOPHICAL VEIN AS THE INTRODUCTION TO THE STANDARD ENUMERATION OF SUCCESSES AND SHORTCOMINGS. HE SAID THAT THE REALIZATION ON A GLOBAL SCALE OF THE PROGRAM OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PROCLAIMED BY GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV, WAS ONE OF THE MOST VIVID CONFIRMATIONS OF THE LIVING FORCE OF THE DECISIONS OF THE 24TH PARTY CONGRESS (PC). ROMANOV ADDED THAT THIS PROGRAM IS KNOWN IN THE WORLD AS THE SOVIET PROGRAM OF PEACE. ROMANOV SAID THAT "CONFIRMING THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, AIMED AT THE IRREVERSIBILITY OF POSITIVE CHANGES

THE LIMITATION AND REDUCTION OF THE ARMS RACE, THE LIQUIDATION OF EXISTING AND POTENTIAL AREAS OF MILITARY DANGER, AND THE FULFILLMENT OF THE AGREEMENTS SPECIFIED IN THE FINAL DOCUMENTS OF THE ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN HELSINKI, THE CPSU PERSISTENTLY CARRIED OUT A LENINIST FOREIGN POLICY COURSE WHICH BECAME A POWERFUL WEAPON OF THE PRESENT IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, AND THE RELIABLE MEANS OF DEFENSE OF THE INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET STATE, OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES, THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLES."

4. ROMANOV USED AN INTERSTING TURN OF PHRASE IN ILLUSTRATING HIS STATEMENT THAT "WE LIVE AT A REMARKABLE TIME." ROMANOV FIRST NOTED THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ITS POLITBURO, AND PERSONALLY GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV, HAD CREATED IN THE PARTY AND COUNTRY A SITUATION OF TRUE CREATIVE WORK ON THE BASIS OF CONSISTENT REALIZATION OF THE LENINIST PRINCIPLES OF PARTY LIFE. HE THEN ELABORATED THIS MOUTHFUL WITH THE STATEMENT THAT "ITS CHARACTERISTIC TRAITS, CONFIRMED AFTER THE OCTOBER 1964 CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM, ARE A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH, COLLEGIALITY, A BUSINESS-LIKE WAY, HIGH ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLE, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF DECISIONS TAKEN, DAILY CONCERN FOR THE ACCELERATED REALIZATION OF KEY PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND THE UNDEVIATING RAISING OF NATIONAL WELFARE, AND STRENGTHENING THE INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY OF OUR HOMELAND."

ROMANOV THUS MANGED TO USE KHRUSHCHEV'S DEPARTURE AND BREZHNEV'S ASCENDANCE AS THE BEGINNING OF ALL THAT THE PARTY AND STATE NOW REPRESENT.

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5. NEAR THE END OF HIS SPEECH, ADDRESSING IDEOLOGICAL MATTERS, ROMANOV TOOK A FEW JABS AT IMPERIALISM. NOTING SHORTCOMINGS IN IDEOLOGICAL WORK WITH YOUTH, ROMANOV CITED LENIN'S OBSERVANCE THAT COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY CONFIRMS ITSELF IN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF MILLIONS NOT FOR ITS OWN SAKE, NOT IN A FACILE MANNER, NOT WITHOUT OBSTACLES, BUT IN THE STRUGGLE WITH BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY, WITH THOSE ALIEN TO THE WORKING CLASS, WITH VIEWS, IDEAS AND THEORIES HOSTILE TO

COMMUNISM. ROMANOV THEN ADDED IN HIS OWN WORDS THAT "WE LIVE IN CONDITIONS OF UNABATING IDEOLOGICAL WAR WHICH IMPERIALIST PROPAGANDA CONDUCTS AGAINST OUR COUNTRY, AGAINST THE WORLD OF SOCIALISM."

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6. ROMANOV MADE TEN REFERENCES TO AREAS OF ENDEAVOR IN WHICH THE Leningrad Party Organization received the approval of the Central Committee or Brezhnev's personal interest. These included the Leningrad experience in developing and realizing complex plans, particularly in the complex plan of economic and social development for the city and oblast ("worked out in connection with the direction of Brezhnev"), experience in preparation and education of "worthy replenishments of the working class;" concentration and specialization of production; agricultural development in the non-black earth zone; and aspects of ideological work. Romanov noted that Brezhnev visited Leningrad on two occasions since the 24th PC where Brezhnev's "deep interest in key questions gave us enormous support in all subsequent work." Romanov praised the Politburo and Central Committee for giving Leningrad constant attention, concern and assistance and observed that such a close tie to local party organizations is the most characteristic trait in the Central Committee's work style.

7. Romanov's exposition of successes and shortcomings followed the usual pattern for party meetings here, differing almost not at all

FROM THOSE UNUNCIATED AT THE LENINGRAD CITY PARTY CONFERENCE.
SHORTCOMINGS INCLUDED THE NEED TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZA-
TION OF RESOURCES; IMPROVE THE WORK OF SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS AND
THEIR RELEVANCE TO PRODUCTION; EXPAND THE SHIFT SYSTEM; UTILIZE THE
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WORKING FORCE MORE RATIONALLY; RAISE IDEOLOGICAL LEVEL OF ARTISTIC
WORKS; IMPROVE CONSUMER SERVICES; AND, AS NOTED, WORK MORE WITH YOUTH
.

8. ROMANOV MENTIONED THAT THE LENINGRAD PARTY ORGANIZATION (CITY AND
OBLAST) HAS 467,000 FULL AND CANDIDATE MEMBERS AT PRESENT, WITH
69,000 PERSONS TAKEN INTO THE PARTY SINCE THE 24TH PC. HE CLAIMED
THAT THE NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS, LITERATURE AND ART FIGURES,
TEACHERS, DOCTORS, AND STUDENTS TAKEN INTO THE RANKS OF THE PARTY HAD
DOUBLED DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

9. CONGEN WILL REPORT SEPARATELY ON OUTCOME OF OBLAST PARTY ELECTION,
A SUMMARY BY CABLE AND, AS WITH THE CITY PARTY ELECTION, A FOLLOW UP
AIRGRAM WITH NAMES AND AVAILABLE BIO INFORMATION ON THOSE
ELECTED TO VARIOUS POSITIONS AND BODIES.
NEUBERT

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